

CL2121 US NA
Application No.: 10/318,294
Reply to Office Action of April 24, 2006
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Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing polyester bicomponent fibers the process ~~comprising consisting essentially of~~ combining at least two crystallizable polyester polymers, determining a maximum shrinkage spinning rate of said polymers, melting said polyester polymers, causing said molten polymers to flow through a spinneret having one or more apertures, said spinneret being suitable for preparing bicomponent fibers, thereby spinning at least one strand of 0.5 to 6 denier fiber said strand being spun at a linear rate of $\pm 10\%$ of the maximum shrinkage spinning rate, said two crystallizable polyester polymers differing from one another in crystallization rate under the spinning conditions.
2. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the at least two crystallizable polyester polymers are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene terephthalate, and polybutylene terephthalate.
3. (original) The process of Claim 2 wherein one crystallizable polyester polymer is polyethylene terephthalate, and another crystallizable polyester polymer is polypropylene terephthalate.
4. (original) The process of Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein the weight ratio of the two polyesters in the bicomponent fibers made by the process of the invention is in the range of 30/70-70/30.
5. (original) The process of Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein the weight ratio of the two polyesters in the bicomponent fibers made by the process of the invention is in the range of 40/60-60/40.

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6. (original) The process of Claim 2 or Claim 3 wherein the weight ratio of the two polyesters in the bicomponent fibers made by the process of the invention is in the range of 45/55-55/45.

7. (original) The process of Claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein the at least two crystallizable polyester polymers differ in intrinsic viscosity.

8. (original) The process of Claim 1 or Claim 3 further comprising the step of heating the thus prepared polyester bicomponent to a temperature above the glass-transition temperature of the less crystallized component to effect shrinkage and crimping of said fiber.

9. (canceled)